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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,586	01/04/2002	Steven Teig	SPLX.P0048	2258

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EXAMINER

BOWERS, BRANDON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039,586

Applicant(s)

TEIG ET AL.

Examiner

Brandon W. Bowers

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20030428, 20031017, 20031117</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carothers et al, US Patent No. 6,353,918.

In reference to claim 1, Carothers teaches a method comprising identifying groups of related sub-region configurations, storing a base set of routes for each group (figures 10 and 11 and column 8 line 53 – column 9, line 28), and storing an indicia specifying how to obtain a related set of routes for each particular configuration from the base set of routes stored for the configurations group (column 9, line 30 – column 10, line 67).

In reference to claim 9, Carothers teaches, defining a set of partitioning lines for partitioning the region into a plurality of sub-regions, wherein different sets of sub-regions represent different sub-region configurations(column 7, lines 45-56), for a first sub-region configuration, identifying a first set of routes, wherein each route in the first set connects the first set of sub-regions (first set of type 1 and type 2 routes plotted, column 8 line 26 – column 9, line 28), identifying a second sub-region configuration that

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is symmetrical to the first sub-region configuration (second and additional sets of type 1 and type 2 routes plotted, column 8 line 26 – column 9, line 28), storing the first set of routes in a storage structure, and storing an indicia specifying how to obtain a second set of routes for the second sub-region configuration from the first set of routes stored for the first sub-region configuration (column 9, line 30 – column 10, line 67).

In reference to claims 2 and 10, Carothers teaches wherein each group of sub-region configurations includes a base configuration and a plurality of symmetrical sub-region configurations each of which is related to the base configuration based on a particular symmetrical relationship (Figure 11).

In reference to claim 3, Carothers teaches wherein the stored indicia for the base sub-region configuration of each particular group specifies that the base set of routes stored for the particular group are the set of routes for the base sub-region configuration of the particular group (column 9, line 30 – column 10, line 67).

In reference to claim 4, Carothers teaches wherein each route in the base set of routes of each particular group traverses the sub-regions of the base sub-region configuration of the particular group (figures 10 and 11 and column 8 line 53 – column 9, line 28).

In reference to claim 5 and 13, Carothers teaches wherein the stored indicia for each particular symmetrical configuration of each particular group specifies a particular transformation of the particular group's base set of routes to the set of routes for the particular symmetrical configuration, wherein each particular symmetrical configuration's

specified transformation is based on the particular configuration's symmetrical relationship to the particular group's base configuration (Figure 8-9).

In reference to claims 6 and 11, Carothers teaches wherein the transformation of at least one particular symmetrical configuration of each group specifies that the group's base set of routes has to be rotated about an origin by a particular angle to obtain the particular symmetrical configuration's set of routes (figures 8-9)

In reference to claim 7 and 12, Carothers teaches wherein the transformation of at least one particular symmetrical configuration of each group specifies that the group's base set of routes has to be rotated about an origin by a particular angle and then flipped about an axis to obtain the particular symmetrical configuration's set of routes (figures 8-9).

In reference to claim 8, Carothers teaches wherein the transformation of at least one particular symmetrical configuration of each group specifies that the group's base set of routes has to be flipped about an axis to obtain the particular symmetrical configuration's set of routes (figures 8-9).

In reference to claim 14-15, Carothers teaches determining if a previous route is already stored, associating it with the first and second sub-regions, and when it is not stored, storing it and associating it with the first and second sub-regions (column 8 line 26 – column 9, line 28).

In reference to claims 16-17, Carothers teaches wherein the sets of routes contain one or more routes (column 9, line 30 – column 10, line 67).

In reference to claim 18-20 drawn to a computer readable media containing instructions for executing the method of claims 1-8, the same rejection applies.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon W. Bowers whose telephone number is (571)272-1888. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571)272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BWB


JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER